

## BRETHREN BOOK AND TRACT COMMITTEE'S WORK.

MEYERSDALE, PA., May 19th, 1894.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—A dispensation of that good fortune, or rather that good Providence which now and then brings us an unusually pleasant experience has ordered for us a few days sojourn in Meyersdale, which, besides its other good record in the Progressive church has become the center of one of its largest and most important publishing interests. Our busy chairman, being over run with work incident to the editing of his two Sunday school weekly's, which have now attained to a circulation of 43000 and his quarterlies, of which 9,000 for this quarter have been issued, and having on his hands other important journalistic work, and also desiring to hold a week's meeting leading up to a communion, rightly insisted that other members of the committee should give him a lift, which we were also quite willing to do, having once and again tasted the hospitality and good fellowship of the Meyersdale brethren. So we turned over the *Advocate* to the junior editor, and for several days past have held forth the Word to this congregation, expecting the solemn communion service on Sunday evening. In the meantime two applicants for baptism, and more we trust, will require the administration of this divine ordinance.

Notwithstanding the agony of the self appointed critic who now and then feels called upon from above, or from the opposite direction, to lay on his lash when some infinitesimal point of theology or exegesis is not treated in accord with the views of his infinitesimal mind, the generous patronage which our Sunday school literature enjoys is sufficient and gratifying evidence of its popularity and utility. There is one astonishing thing about it, and again another about which I am disposed to hector somebody. The first item is the low price of these supplies, which, both for the weekly papers, and for the quarterlies, is considerably below the quotations of similar goods from much larger publishing houses. We are now selling the quarterly at four cents while Peloubet's, which on general principles is no better, and for the purposes of the Brethren church not as good, sells for five cents. Cheering Words, edited in full by Bro. Gnagey, is furnished at twenty-five cents instead of forty cents, the price our schools had to pay for the same or similar papers furnished direct from the Chicago publishing house. How these prices can be afforded by the committee on such a comparatively small edition is the astonishing part of the business; but then a great deal depends upon knowing how to do a thing.

I will make free to say, however, that a very small margin of profit is left, almost nothing in fact, to compensate our faithful and indefatigable chairman, for all the hard work

he has been putting into this Sunday school literature. It takes all his time, involves a great deal more labor than would be required to edit a weekly newspaper, and yet he gets practically nothing for it. Think of this, you people who heretofore have been grumbling at the prices of the quarterlies and papers, until you have forced them down below the price of similar goods issued by large publishing houses; think of it a moment, and then see if you can't feel a little mean. Could anything be more distinctly a church enterprise than this Book and Tract work, and this Brethren Sunday school literature? and yet it has stood squarely upon a strictly business footing, and has squarely met the issue raised by those who have bluntly said to us, "unless you can furnish your Sunday school supplies as cheap or cheaper than we can get elsewhere, we will not buy your goods." Can anyone tell when or where we have ever asked for the donation of a dollar to this department of Sunday school literature? And yet wouldn't we have just as good a right as any other department of church work to ask for that kind of support, or at least for the indulgent patronage of the church on a basis which would allow the committee to compensate its editor for his hard and unremitting labors? Yet we have not asked, and will not ask more than simple justice and fairness. In such matters we do not believe in the utility of conducting business upon a bankrupt or begging basis. Every dollar which has gone into the Sunday school literature department of our work has had full value received.

Before this letter can be published the great family reunion of the German Baptist Brethren will have assembled beneath the roof of the vast tabernacle standing in the lonely green meadow just in the edge of the town. The committee of arrangements expect many thousands of visitors, and the most extensive preparations are being made for their accommodations. Annual meeting holds this people together, and from this standpoint it is well perhaps that they have these vast assemblies, and cement the fraternal band of union and cohesion which is an element of strength in any people.

B. C. MOOMAW.

## THE PASTOR APPRECIATED—SUNDAY SCHOOL IMPROVING—ONE ADDED BY RELATION.

GLENFORD, O., May 23rd, 1894.

This may be considered a "semi-occasional" report from our church here.

The Sunday school is doing very well, much better than last year. The cause is very evident.

The teaching of the pastor has been in the line of a more pious life and a greater consecration to the cause.

If more of our pastors would pursue the same course, and not work

for numbers alone, but for an exemplary and pious life, the church would be strengthened and the world made better thereby. We appreciate numbers, but we want *converted* numbers.

Some persons are anxious to have great numbers added to the church, but if they are not converted—changed—and show by their life the proper fruits, they merely count "heads."

The devil uses some persons to work for him. It seems as though the lie is one of his favorite means. In consequence of this line, we have lost two members. While we are sorry to lose them we still hope they may see that they have been misled.

At our last service we received Mrs S. S. Garst into the Brethren church. She brought a highly commendable letter from the German Baptist church at Lordsburgh, Cal. We were much pleased to receive her into full fellowship with us.

We believe she will be quite a worker in the church. Such persons are in need everywhere.

Our church greatly appreciates our pastor's—Bro. J. M. Bowman—practical sermons.

We hope to be able to report soon some more additions.

C. E. DEFFENBAUGH.

## "DIVINE HEALING."

I have felt for some time like drawing the breaks on the Divine Healing craze, but when I saw how our young brethren are tumbling over one another's shoulders to get into this long ago exploded humbug, I did not think that anyone opposed to it could get a hearing and hence tried to bear in silence the humiliating articles in the EVANGELIST. Since I see, however, that Dr. Pearson's very excellent article was admitted, I take courage to record my voice, my influence and my Christian intelligence against it as advocated through the EVANGELIST, this is all I can find time to say just now. If anyone desires it I will discuss the subject in full—as I feel confident that I can drive a four horse team right through it.

Yours for a true and sacred theology.

P. J. BROWN.

## 2 BAPTIZED—75 COMMUNED—B. C. MOOMAW PREACHED AND LECTURED.

MEYERSDALE, PA., May 24th, 1894.

The Brethren church at this place had one week's meeting, preaching every evening during the week from 13th to 20th, of May. Baptized two. Communion on last day of meeting, the 20th. About 75 communed.

Bro. B. C. Moomaw was with us for a few days and delivered his lecture on the "Rum Valley Rail Road," on Monday evening, the 21st. The subject is a very interesting one and was well delivered.

J. M. OLINGER.

## IMPORTANT TO MINISTERS.

All communications intended for me will reach proper destination if addressed 429 Somerset St., Johnstown, Pa., until July 1st, after that time Maurertown, Va. On my way from Roanoke, Va. convention, received two into the Brethren church from the Christian congregation, and they are enrolled with the congregation worshipping at St. Luke, Va. The church at this place is in good working condition and at this time open for some good working preacher to lead them in the glorious warfare. Preacher, if you mean work and want a good place, write me at once.

E. B. SHAVER.

## PAUL AND WEBSTER OUTDONE.

"Christ is the captain of our stradiation." So we read in EVANGELIST, No. 20, second page, first column, 16th line from bottom. We all know only too well what tradition means. But *stradiation* is the despair of lexicographers.

That Christ is the captain of our salvation is what too few of us know but what all ought to know and must know if life is to be what God designs it. We need a captain, and a wise one, a mighty one; and in Jesus we have both omniscience and omnipotence. We are poor cowardly soldiers even when we claim to be fighting under the banner of the King of Kings. Self and the devil gain more victories than Emmanuel. The cross alone makes Jesus King. And this allows no compromise with the flesh. Death is the sole condition of life in the spiritual realm. As the captain, so the soldier. The army is large, but the valiants are the elect

C. H. BALSBAUGH.

## A NEW CONTRIBUTOR.

CRELLIN, MD., May 17th, 1894.

DEAR EDITOR:—This is my first attempt to write for the paper, but as I promised Brother Love to do so I will do the best I can—that is all the Lord requires of us.

We have a good Sunday school here and preaching once a month by the Presbyterians and Lutherans; but we have no Brethren preaching in this little place. Brother Buckalew preaches two miles from here. The young people's prayer meeting is on Sunday night. I kindly ask an interest in every Christian's prayers that their meeting too may grow and much good may come from them.

We learned of brother and sister's bereavement. I can sympathize with them. When we think of the beautiful home the blessed Savior has prepared for the dear little ones, we should not wish them back to a sin polluted world. It often comes to me who will be first to meet us when our Master calls? Will it be Jesus or our dear little ones that have gone before.

Your sister in Christ,

Judith R. Saucer.